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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/888,940	06/25/2001	Tye Travis Gribb	66054002	9270

7590 12/31/2003

Intellectual Property Department
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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, JUDY

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2861

DATE MAILED: 12/31/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/888,940

Applicant(s)

GRIBB ET AL.

Examiner

Judy Nguyen

Art Unit

2861

NW

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 9 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 10-13 and 24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7, 8, 14-23 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 June 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2, 3 1/2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Claim 9 is withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

Election was made **without** traverse in Paper No. 4.

Applicant's election of Species II in Paper No. 4 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

Claim Objections

Claims 14-23 objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because claims 14, 15, 17, 19 each depends on itself and does not referring back to and further limiting another claim or claims. Claims 16, 18, and 20-23 each depends on the improper form claim 14. Accordingly, the claims have not been further treated on the merits.

Claims 2, 12 are objected to because of the following informalities:

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- Claim 2: "one of" (line 1) should be deleted because items a. and b. are already recited as an alternative via "or".
- Claim 12 should be amended to consistent with the specification. Items a. and b.ii. apply to both first and second delay line anodes. The recitation of "each of" does not apply to items a. and b.ii.

Appropriate correction is required.

Drawings

Figures 1 and 2 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: "a second anode active area which receives particles from the first anode active area" (claims 6, 12, 13) has no antecedent basis in the specification. It appears that the second anode active area receives particles that **passed through** the first delay line anode.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 6, 12, 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. One skilled in the art would not know how the second anode active area can receive particles from the first anode active area while such particles are **impinged** on the first anode active area as described in the specification. How do those particles leave the first anode active area to be on the second anode active area?

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

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(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wollnik et al (US 5,644,128).

Note: in view of the objection and rejection with respect to claims 6 and 12, these claims are being rejected by prior art in view of the disclosure.

Wollnik et al discloses all elements of the claimed invention including:

- first (39) and second (13) delay line anodes adaptably mounted in spaced relation to have adjustable spacing therebetween (see Figure 4A)
- vacuum is interposed between the first and second delay line anodes (column 5, line 24+: discloses that delay line being suspended in vacuum; hence vacuum is being the anode lines)
- the first and second delay line anodes (39, 13) are identical (illustrated by Figures 4B, 4C)
- the first and second delay line anodes are interchangeable within the particle detector (since first and second are identical, they are capable of being interchanged)
- the first and second delay line anodes is formed of flex circuit material (anodes 39, 13 are shown as wire circuit arrangement which indicates that the anodes

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39, 13 must be flexed to allow them to be bended into the illustrated circuit arrangement)

- other correlation between the aforementioned claimed elements are clearly illustrated.

Claims 1, 3, 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA).

AAPA (Figure 1) discloses all elements of the claimed invention including first (108) and second (110) delay line anodes each has an active area and no structure is interposed between the active areas (clearly illustrated).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7 and 8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Judy Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-7062. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.

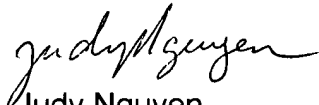
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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ben Fuller can be reached on (703) 308-0079. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.



Judy Nguyen
Primary Examiner
December 29, 2003